

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) In combination with an inverted oil filter canister disposed on an oil filter receiving base of an engine block, an oil containment boot to prevent oil spillage upon removal of the inverted oil filter canister from the oil filter receiving base, said oil containment boot comprising:

a peripheral side wall defining an open top end and an open bottom end, said peripheral side wall extending substantially vertically upwardly a distance above adjacent the inverted oil filter canister and in a direction away from the oil filter receiving base such that at least a portion of the inverted oil filter canister disposed on the oil filter receiving base is surrounded by said peripheral side wall;

~~a restraint proximate said open bottom end~~ means for sealingly securing said open bottom end of the oil containment boot operably over the oil filter receiving base such that the oil containment boot will remain sealingly secured to the oil filter receiving base while the inverted oil filter canister is removed therefrom;

whereby, upon removal of the inverted oil filter canister from the oil filter receiving base through said open top end, any oil draining from the removed inverted oil filter canister is contained within said peripheral side wall of the oil containment boot sealingly secured over the oil filter receiving base, thereby preventing oil spillage, and whereby the oil that drains from the inverted oil filter canister contained by the boot drains back into the engine block through said oil filter receiving base.

2. (Withdrawn)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously amended) The oil containment boot of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of said open top end is substantially greater in diameter than said open bottom end.

8. (Original) The oil containment boot of claim 1 wherein said peripheral side wall is moveable between a first oil containment position and a second folded position.

9. (Currently amended) A method of minimizing oil spillage during removal of a used inverted oil filter canister from an oil filter receiving base on an engine block, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a used inverted oil filter canister disposed on an oil filter receiving base;

(b) providing an oil containment boot, said boot comprising a peripheral side wall defining an open top end and an open bottom end;

(c) placing said open bottom end of said oil containment boot over said used inverted oil filter canister disposed on said oil filter receiving base;

(d) providing means for sealingly securing said open bottom end of said boot operably over said oil filter receiving base, wherein ~~such that~~ said peripheral side wall of said boot extends substantially vertically upwardly a distance adjacent the used inverted oil filter canister and in a direction away from ~~above~~ said oil filter receiving base such that at least a portion of said peripheral side wall of said boot and surrounds at least a portion of said used inverted oil filter canister disposed thereon said oil filter receiving base;

(e) threadably removing said used inverted oil filter canister from said oil filter receiving base through said open top end of said boot sealingly secured over said oil filter receiving base;

whereby upon removal of said used inverted oil filter canister from said oil filter receiving base, ~~any oil draining from in~~ said ~~removed~~ used inverted oil filter canister is contained within said peripheral side wall of said boot which remains sealingly secured operably over said oil filter receiving base thereby preventing oil spillage, and whereby the oil that drains from said removed used inverted oil filter canister contained by the boot drains back into the engine block through said oil filter receiving base.

10. (Withdrawn)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously amended) The method of claim 9 wherein at least a portion of said open top end of said boot is substantially greater in diameter than said open bottom end.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of moving said peripheral side wall between a first oil containment position during removal of said used inverted oil filter canister and a second folded position after installing a new inverted oil filter canister.